

## IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims 1, 3, 34, 39 and 42 as follows:

These are unmarked claims, including claims not amended. These claims are set forth for the convenience of the Examiner. Marked up claims are provided in an Appendix to this Amendment.

Sub C1  
B1  
1. (Amended) An apparatus for controlling fixed-length transmission unit traffic in a switch platform, the apparatus comprising at least one bi-directional first-in-first-out (FIFO) unit, wherein each bi-directional FIFO unit comprises a first and a second unidirectional FIFO buffer, wherein a fixed-length transmission unit size of the first and second unidirectional FIFO buffers comprises a software programmable parameter changeable by the user without the need to change existing hardware.

B2  
3. (Amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein a word size of the first and second unidirectional FIFO buffers is a software programmable parameter.

Sub C2  
B3  
34. (Amended) A network switch platform comprising:  
at least one service module;  
at least one fixed-length transmission unit bus controller coupled among the at least one service module and at least one switch;  
at least one bi-directional first-in-first-out (FIFO) unit located in the at least one service module and the at least one fixed-length transmission unit bus controller, wherein each bi-directional FIFO unit comprises a first and a second

CACT  
B3  
unidirectional FIFO buffer each capable of discarding an invalid fixed-length transmission unit, wherein a fixed-length transmission unit size of the first and second unidirectional FIFO buffers comprises a software programmable parameter changeable by the user without the need to change existing hardware; and

at least one diagnostic interface, wherein the at least one diagnostic interface supports a non-destructive read of the at least one bi-directional FIFO unit while at least one fixed-length transmission unit is being written to and read from the at least one bi-directional FIFO unit.

B4  
39. (Amended) The network switch of claim 34, wherein a word size of the first and second unidirectional FIFO buffers is a software programmable parameter.

SUB C3  
B5  
42. (Amended) A method for controlling fixed-length transmission unit traffic in a switch platform, the method comprising the step of transferring at least one fixed-length transmission unit among a plurality of ports having a plurality of bandwidths using a bi-directional first-in-first-out (FIFO) unit, wherein the bi-directional FIFO unit comprises a first and second unidirectional FIFO buffer having a software programmable fixed-length transmission unit size changeable by the user without the need to change existing hardware.